

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY
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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6551

BILL NUMBER: HB 1538

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 12, 2002

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Human Cloning.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Welch

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: ☒ **GENERAL**
☒ **DEDICATED**
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill declares that cloning is against public policy. It prohibits the state and a political subdivision of the state from using resources to knowingly participate in cloning activities. The bill requires the State Department of Health to revoke the license of a hospital that knowingly allows cloning activities. It also requires the Medical Licensing Board to revoke the license of a physician who knowingly participates in human cloning. The bill makes unlawful participation in human cloning a Class D felony. It also makes the purchase or sale of a human ovum, zygote, embryo, or fetus a Class C felony.

Effective Date: Upon passage.

Explanation of State Expenditures: This bill prohibits the state or any political subdivision from using any public funds, facilities, or employees to support any activities related to the cloning of a human being. This provision prohibits the administrative agencies, universities, and local governmental units from spending state funds or devoting state resources to a specified activity. The extent of general cloning research being done at state-sponsored universities is unknown.

The bill also requires the State Department of Health to revoke the license of a hospital if the State Health Commissioner proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the hospital knowingly allows the hospital facilities or hospital employees, within the scope of their employment, to be used for or participate in cloning or attempted cloning of a human being.

The bill further requires the Medical Licensing Board to revoke a physician's license if the Attorney General after appropriate notice and the opportunity for a hearing, proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the physician knowingly participates in or otherwise supports research or other activities facilitating the

cloning of a human being. This provision could result in additional administrative expenses for the Attorney General's office.

The bill also establishes two new Class D and C felonies, respectively, for the following: (1) unlawful participation in human cloning and (2) unlawful transfer of human organisms. A Class D felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from six months to three years or reduction to Class A misdemeanor depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances. A Class C felony is punishable by a prison term ranging from two to eight years depending upon mitigating and aggravating circumstances. The average expenditure to house an adult offender was \$25,087 in FY 2001. Individual facility expenditures ranged from \$18,520 to \$54,465. (This does not include the cost of new construction.) If offenders can be housed in existing facilities with no additional staff, the average cost for medical care, food, and clothing is approximately \$1,825 annually, or \$5 daily, per prisoner. The average length of stay in Department of Correction (DOC) facilities for all Class D felony offenders is approximately ten months. The average length of stay in DOC facilities for all Class C felony offenders is approximately two years.

Explanation of State Revenues: If additional court cases occur and fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would increase. The maximum fine for a Class D and a Class C felony is \$10,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, or county court, 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

Explanation of Local Expenditures: If more defendants are detained in county jails prior to their court hearings, local expenditures for jail operations may increase. The average cost per day is approximately \$44.

Explanation of Local Revenues: If additional court actions occur and a guilty verdict is entered, local governments would receive revenue from the following sources: (1) The county general fund would receive 27% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed in a court of record. Cities and towns maintaining a law enforcement agency that prosecutes at least 50% of its ordinance violations in a court of record may receive 3% of court fees. (2) A \$3 fee would be assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county law enforcement continuing education fund. (3) A \$2 jury fee is assessed and, if collected, would be deposited into the county user fee fund to supplement the compensation of jury members.

State Agencies Affected: State Department of Health, Department of Correction, and the Attorney General's Office.

Local Agencies Affected: Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Indiana Sheriffs Association, Department of Correction.

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